

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's reminder with respect to the Japanese language documents submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement is acknowledged and appreciated. However, it will also be noted that the English language US patent documents concurrently cited in the same Information Disclosure Statement are believed to be English language equivalents of the Japanese documents. Accordingly, no further action is believed to be required.

The allowance of claims 1-8 is appreciatively noted.

The rejection of claims 9, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Ishida '480 and the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being made "obvious" based on the same single Ishida reference are both respectfully traversed. However, since these claims have been now cancelled above without prejudice or disclaimer, these issues are now believed to have been mooted and it is therefore not necessary at this time to detail the reasons for such traversal.

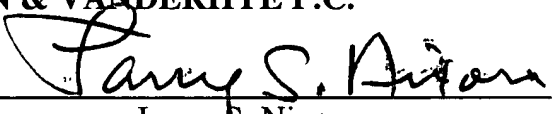
MAKINO et al.
Appl. No. 10/642,302
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There being no other outstanding issues, it is believed that this entire application is now in condition for allowance and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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